

MODULE 1

Class Title: Surah Al-Baiyyinah

Aim of the lesson: To understand the key message of Surah Al-Baiyyinah through an interactive activity

Category: Scripture

Lesson format: Group activity based class with presentation

Greeting to students) *Assalam alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

(*Taooz*) *Aoodhubillahi min AsShaytanir Rajeem*

(*Tasmiyah*) *Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*

(*Du'a*) *Rabbish rahli sadri wa yassirli amri wahlul uqdatum millisani yafqahu qawli* (Surah At Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Materials Needed:

- Colored paper (gold, silver, green, blue, orange, etc.)
- Pink and yellow cardboard/chart paper (pink should be larger in size)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Brushes and paints
- Pencils and markers
- Scales/rulers
- Plastic bags
- Lentils

What you will do in class:

Step 1: Divide the class into 3/4/5 groups (depending on the total number of students; each group should have at least 4 students). Then give each group a set of the above mentioned materials. Tell the students to make whatever they want to, working in groups, with the given materials. Give them 20 minutes to do so.

Step 2: Once the groups have started working, after 5 minutes, give a sheet to each group with the following guidelines:

Guidelines:

- You may continue to do what you have started or you may follow these instructions and make a house from the things that have been given to you.
- The house should have five columns.
- There should be lots of greenery around it.
- There should be a water body near the house.
- The house can be of glass, gold, silver or any material you like.

- It could be resting on the ground or up in the sky but there should be a path leading up to it.
- Avoid using pink color because I don't like it.
- Finish your work in the allotted time.

Step 3: After the allotted time is up, a student from each group is asked to get up and display what they have made. The group has to answer the following questions:

1. Did the group follow the guidelines or did they make something else? (Those who followed the guidelines get a sweet.)
2. What was the reason behind following/ not following the guidelines?

For those who followed guidelines:

3. Do you like the house you have made?
4. Is it someplace you would like to live in?
5. Have you used pink color?
6. What are your reasons for using/ not using pink?
7. Did you find the exercise interesting?

Step 4: After every group has been questioned, and their work has been shown to the class, explain what they have just done with the help of the following points.

1. When you were coming to class you had no idea that you would be taking part in any such an activity. Just your presence here made you eligible for participation. Since you were here you did this exercise. Similarly, Allah (swt) has put us in this world to participate in the game of life. Now that we are here we have to play the game.
2. Initially, you were not given any guidelines and you started making something. If we look at our life we realize that as babies we hardly follow any guidelines. need to learn rules and regulations as we grow older.
3. When the guidelines were given, the class was divided into two groups because of the choice they made. Some chose to follow the guidelines while others decided to continue with what they had started. That is what used to happen when Allah (swt) sent His message. Communities would split into believers and non believers. Some would leave what they were doing and choose to follow the guidelines of Allah (swt). Some would not follow. So the decision to follow or not to follow the guidelines of Allah (swt) is a choice that we make. This activity was done to make a point; those of you who did not follow the guidelines have certainly not become disbelievers.
4. The group that did not follow the guidelines nevertheless worked hard and made a good picture. However, it was not something that I, being your head in this class, wanted.

Similarly, the disbelievers in this world also work very hard and make good things. That's why they are successful in this world. However, Allah (swt) does not want what they make so He gives them the reward for all their hard work in this world only.

5. The group that followed the guidelines also worked hard and made a good picture. Moreover, they also pleased me, the head of the class. I, in turn, rewarded them with sweets. So they got a reward and that is the case of the believing people.
6. Those of you who followed the guidelines, did you find that it was easier to work together? Guidelines help one to focus and work together as a team. Lack of guidelines often leads to mismanagement, discord and hard feelings. Everyone wants to do their own thing which leads to conflict. Similarly, the guidelines given by Allah (swt) help us to get through our life and life is all about interacting with others and effectively using our resources.
7. Now, whether you accepted or rejected the guidelines, you all got the material to work with. You all got what you needed to make your pictures and those things were not taken away even from those who decided not to follow the message. Similarly, Allah (swt) provides resources to everyone. The believers, as well as the non-believers, get what they need to spend their lives in this world. Now it is up to us how we use the things that we get. So the believers as well as the disbelievers, both have the power to make use of this world in whatever way they want to. That is the reason why we see successful believers as well as disbelievers around us. The success of this world can be obtained by anyone who learns to master and use effectively the resources of this world.
8. Those of you who followed the guidelines still had a free hand. You had the liberty of making the house in whichever way you wanted. In the end, if you don't like what you have made or didn't find the exercise interesting then who is responsible for that? You are. Similarly, Allah (swt) has given us our life and the resources and it is up to us to make the most of them.
9. Why is it that, even though I was standing right in front of you, some of you chose not to follow my instructions? Because you didn't know me and so didn't take me seriously. Also, you were not aware of the consequences. It didn't occur to you that I want to be obeyed and pleased. You didn't realize that following the guidelines will earn you rewards in the form of sweets.

That is what happens to us in life. We tend to disregard the guidelines of our *deen* because we don't know our Creator very well. We don't realize that He wants to be obeyed and pleased but He has given us the choice. We are unaware of the consequences. We are unaware of the rewards He can give us. We are full of doubts. So the important thing is to start getting to know Allah (swt).

Step 5: Play the 99 names of Allah at the end of class.

Slide 6:

Firstly, when you came to class today, did any of you have any idea what we would do today?

No? So this was a surprise for you. Your presence here gave you an opportunity to participate. This is what happens in life. Allah (swt) has said that life is like a game. We come into this world without our will and then we have to play the game of life. We have to, we don't have any choice.

This group followed the guidelines because they couldn't come up with a better idea. The rest of you thought you had something more interesting or you wanted to be different. But the group who followed the guidelines actually ended up becoming more different and unique! The activity might have seemed boring and unattractive on the surface. As it turned out, all of you enjoyed yourselves.

Your leader - that is me in this case - gave you some guidelines for a reason. But did it occur to you that I may have given them to you for a reason? That thought never occurred to you? You still went on with your own ideas; you were fulfilling your own wish. You didn't follow my wishes. That is what happens with us in life. Allah (swt) has given us some guidelines which may seem boring, but in the end they are good for us. He wants us to follow them. He has given them to us for a reason.

Slides 7-8:

I'll read out the translation of a verse, "Those who disbelieved from amongst the People of the Scriptures (Jews & Christians) and amongst the *al-mushrikoon* were not going to leave their disbelief until there came to them a clear evidence." (Surah Al-Baiyyinah 98: Verse 1)

Allah (swt) tells us that we need clear proof and guidance to effectively distinguish right from wrong. So, Allah (swt) sent His Messenger, Muhammad (pbuh), through whom he revealed the purified pages i.e. the *Qur'an*.

"A Messenger (Muhammad [pbuh]) from Allah, reciting (the Qur'an) purified pages [purified from Al-Batil (falsehood, etc.)]. Containing correct and straight laws from Allah." (Surah Al-Baiyyinah 98: Verses 2-3):

The *Qur'an* contains correct and straight guidance for all humanity. Both the *Qur'an*, and the Prophet (pbuh), are clear guidance and both distinguish between the believers and the disbelievers. As you saw during the activity we just did, when the guidelines were given out, the class got divided into two groups; those who decided to follow the guidelines and those who decided to disregard the guidelines. That is what happened when Allah (swt) used to send His message. Communities would split into believers and disbelievers. Some would follow the guidelines of Allah (swt) and some would not. So the decision to follow, or not to follow, the guidelines of Allah (swt) is a choice that we make. This activity was done to make a point; those of you who did not follow the guidelines have certainly not become disbelievers.

Slide 9:

"Verily those who disbelieved in the religion of Islam from amongst the people of the scriptures and amongst the *mushrikoon* will abide in the Fire of Hell and they are the worst of creatures." (Surah Al-Baiyyinah 98: Verses 5-6)

Now this is Allah's (swt) way of saying that those who don't believe in the *Qur'an* and the Prophet (pbuh), will end up in Hell.

Slides 10-11:

“Verily, those who believe [in the Oneness of Allah, and in His Messenger Muhammad (pbuh)] including all obligations ordered by Islam] and do righteous good deeds, they are the best of creatures. Their reward with their Lord is 'Adn (Eden) Paradise (Gardens of Eternity), underneath which rivers flow, they will abide therein forever, Allah Well-Pleased with them, and they with Him. That is for him who fears his Lord.” (Surah Al-Bayyinah 98: Verses 7-8)

Slide 12:

Allah (swt) rewards those who:

- work for Him,
- believe in Him,
- believe in His Prophets,
- believe in His Books and
- follow His guidelines.

The most important point here is that Allah (swt) is the one who gives us all the resources we need to survive in this world, along with guidelines, and then leaves it up to us to follow them or disregard them.

Whether you liked this exercise or not, you were given the freedom to choose how to make your picture. Similarly, in this life, some follow Allah's (swt) guidelines and some don't. Sometimes the disbelievers do very well in this world. In the activity, the group that did not follow the guidelines also worked hard and managed to make good pictures but they were not something that I, being your head in this class, wanted. Similarly, the disbelievers in this world also work very hard and make good things. That's why they are successful people in this world, but Allah (swt) does not want what they make, so He gives them the reward of all their hard work only in this world. Whereas, the group that followed the guideline worked hard, made a good picture and also pleased me, the head of the class, so I gave them sweets. So they got a reward and that is the case of the believing people; since they follow Allah's (swt) guidelines, they will be duly rewarded in the Hereafter.

Slide 13:

Now, those of you who followed the guidelines still had a free hand. You had the liberty of making the picture in whatever way you felt like. In the end, if you don't like what you have made or didn't find the exercise interesting then who is responsible for that? You are.

Now, why is it that, even though I was standing right in front of you, some of you chose not to follow my instructions? Because you didn't know me and so didn't take me seriously. You were

not aware of the consequences. It didn't occur to you that I want to be obeyed and pleased. You didn't realize that following the guidelines will earn you rewards in the form of sweets. That is what happens to us in life. We tend to disregard the guidelines of our *deen* because we don't know our Creator very well. We don't realize that He wants to be obeyed and pleased but He has given us the choice. We are unaware of the consequences. We are unaware of the rewards He can give us. We are full of doubts. So the important thing is to start getting to know Allah (swt) so that we may believe.

Du'a for end of a gathering) *Subhana Rabbika Rabbul Izzati 'amma yasifun wa salamun 'alal mursaleen, walhamdulillahi Rabbil 'alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *Assalam alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh*

Reference for teachers

- Ma'arif Al Qura'n by Maulana Mufti Muhammad Shafi, Idaratul ma-Arif, Karachi
- Tafseer Ibn-e-Kathir
- Tafseer ul Quran, Urdu Audio by Huma Najmul Hassan, www.al-ilm.com